

customs, when the bread-winner of the household passes away. Medical men, with a little concert of action, can aid in simplifying and cheapening such process radically. What is wanted is a light, portable, readily superheated apparatus, to be stationed for the time being at the back door, the remains to be placed therein and reduced to least possible bulk within about the same time as required to read this prosy article!

The scheme of municipal ownership of public utilities, such as light and water plants, is quite popular just now, and a step in the right direction, as, for example, there are towns near the seashore where the water supply is limited and maybe contaminated from want of proper supervision. Under such, and other conditions, a salt water plant should be established, the water raised to a proper elevation and distributed, and used for the many purposes for which so well adapted—the flushing of sewers, street sprinkling and putting out of fires. Of course there is nothing new about this suggestion, but there are many who apparently need such a reminder.

Members of our profession, so generally of high standing intellectually, morally and socially, ought to occupy a position of commanding influence. If you will all resolve when you go home to be active, and take more interest in the groundwork of politics, in the selection of those who are to be lawmakers in town, county, State and nation, you may secure the enactment of such laws as will give the people pure food, pure water, and a less vitiated atmosphere to breathe in, good streets and roads, thus making "life worth the living."

SAN FRANCISCO SOCIETY OF EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT SURGEONS.

Meeting December 18, 1902, Dr. Geo. W. Merritt, Chairman for the Evening.

Dr. Geo. W. Merritt showed a case of double descemetitis, with fixed and floating opacities in the vitreous. The patient was a woman aged 22, the subject of hereditary syphilis. When she presented herself for treatment at the Clinic one month ago, the vitreous was full of opacities, but under mixed treatment the opacities have so diminished that they are now hard to find.

Dr. Louis C. Deane showed a man aged 62, for whom Dr. H. B. de Marville and he had built a nose from the skin of his forearm. The man had a rodent ulcer of the nose which had destroyed the lateral cartilages and the right ala completely, leaving an unsightly and bad-smelling cavity. The ulcer had persisted for 14 years, and the operation was done one year ago. Several secondary operations were necessary, but the nose is now completely healed and looking well. Dr. Barkan asked Dr. Deane whether the X-ray had been tried and referred to several cases of skin epitheliomata which he had successfully treated by that agent. Dr. Deane stated that operative measures had to be used for cosmetic reasons, though he also spoke of the good effect he had in the case of an epithelioma of the lip from solar rays, by which the

temperature of the tumor had been raised to 200 to 400 degrees, and had totally disappeared.

Dr. Barkan showed two cases of coloboma of the lens and iris, both of which had the peculiarity of being placed upwards and outwards, although Fuchs states that coloboma of the iris is always downwards. In another case, a boy of about 20, there was marked proptosis of the right eye, with strong dilation of the subconjunctiva veins. No pulsation could be felt, nor bruit heard in the orbit. An anamnesis was not obtainable, the only thing bearing on the eye condition being the fact that the patient had been subject to very violent attacks of asthma. Dr. Eaton thought the cause was possibly a venous tumor. Dr. Payne thought the tumor had its origin in the asthmatic attacks. Dr. Powers suggested that there might be an aneurysm, although the absence of a bruit rather conflicted with that diagnosis. The absence of pain excluded glaucoma, the mobility of the eyeball spoke against cellulitis, and the probable diagnosis, he thought, was a malign neoplasm. Replying to Dr. Deane, Dr. Barkan stated that he had not tried the effect of bending the head far forward, in order to see whether it would cause extreme protrusion, as in the case demonstrated by Dr. Merritt early in this year. Dr. Wiborn stated that he had seen two cases of orbital cellulitis due to ethmoidal trouble, but that he did not think there was any cellulitis present in this case.

Dr. Brady showed the picture and skull of a cat which had extreme megalophthalmos of the right side.

Dr. Deane exhibited some lantern slides illustrating diseases of the fundus of the eye, they had been developed in colors and showed a new departure in this class of work.

The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: President, Dr. Louis C. Deane; Vice-President, Dr. Redmond Payne; Second Vice-President, Dr. Robert Cohn; Secretary, Dr. M. W. Fredrick; Treasurer, Dr. Geo. W. Merritt; Librarian, Dr. V. H. Hulen.

DEATH.

Dr. H. H. Warburton, a pioneer physician of the Pacific Coast, died at Santa Clara on the 8th inst. He was English, born in the year 1819. He came of a family of physicians, his father and grandfather having been members of the profession. When Dr. Warburton came to this Coast there were but three physicians in California, the only other one in San Francisco having been located at the Presidio.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Impure Drugs. *American Medicine*: "Drug adulteration is a peculiarly infamous bit of scoundrelism of which both the medical and pharmaceutical professions should make an end. Is it possible, one is compelled to ask, that but a small percentage of all drugs are pure? If so, 'therapeutic nihilism' has an unexpected and most sufficient ground for being. Again appears the great need of a united and organized profession which would have mind and power to blacklist and thus kill out the dishonest dealers or manufacturers who traffic in human disease and death."

Polypoid Growth in Children. Dr. L. H. Adler, in *Pennsylvania Medical Journal*: "The only plan to be recommended in the treatment of a polypus is the removal of the growth. It is not safe either to cut or tear polypi, as troublesome hemorrhage may ensue, and the subsequent attempt to place a ligature upon the bleeding vessel is by no means an easy task."